



**ATTACHMENT #1**

**Cable Networks Currently Providing Descriptive Video Narration Programming**

NETWORK	PROGRAM
AmericanLife TV	Fixing Dinner
AmericanLife TV	American Family
AmericanLife TV	Italian Cooking and Living
AmericanLife TV	Embassy Chefs
AmericanLife TV	Volunteers: For the Sake of Others
AmericanLife TV	Combat
Lifetime	Certain Feature Films
Nickelodeon	Rugrats
Nickelodeon	Dora the Explorer
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues
Nickelodeon	Jimmy Neutron
Spike TV	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
TBS	Certain Feature Films
TBS	Ripley's Believe it or Not
TCM	Certain Feature Films
TNT	Law & Order
USA	Certain Feature Films
USA	JAG

Source: Conversations with Metropolitan Washington Ear and Narrative TV Network, March 2006.

**The Narrative Television Network (NTN)**

When Jim Stovall lost the remainder of his eyesight at age 29, he was determined to never leave the controlled environment of his own home again. In fact, he set aside a room with a telephone, a radio, a television, and a video cassette player, intending to never venture out of his secured world.

Jim Stovall met Kathy Harper, who is legally blind, at a support group meeting for blind and visually impaired people. One day while listening to a video of one of his favorite classic movies, Stovall became frustrated when he could not follow the story by only hearing the dialogue and sound effects. He realized that as a blind person there were many visual elements of the story that he missed, and he thought if he was frustrated by it, maybe other visually impaired individuals were as well.

Through research, Stovall and Harper learned that there are 13 million people in the United States who have visual impairments severe enough to limit their enjoyment of movies and television programming. They founded NTN in 1988 and began to develop a plan to make programs accessible to visually impaired people by adding the voice of a narrator describing the visual elements of the story. Even though they knew nothing about the technology it would require to accomplish such a task, they began working with borrowed equipment to produce the first few narrative soundtracks. Jim and Kathy then planned to add the narrative soundtracks to the existing movie audio. Experts in the television industry told them their plan would never work, but unfailing in their tenacity, they eventually found someone who would help them try, and the videos came together just as they had expected. Less than one year later, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarded NTN with an Emmy for technology that has expanded the use of television.

Today, NTN has become one of the fastest-growing networks ever. It has over 1,200 broadcast and cable affiliates, reaching 25 million homes in the U. S., and NTN is shown in eleven foreign countries

- **NTN** has described a broad spectrum of educational and entertainment programming, as well as instructional programming, covering such topics as mobility, the early detection of cancer, job training, etc.
- **NTN's** clients have included the National Park Service, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the College of William and Mary, the Department of Transportation, the Cherokee Heritage Center, the University of Washington at Seattle, and the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as all of the major broadcast and cable networks.

- **NTN** has received an **EMMY** Award, a **MEDIA ACCESS** Award from the television and movie industry, an **INTERNATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO** Award, and a **GOLDEN GEORGI**, which is the top script-writing honor from The Writers Foundation of America.
- **NTN** has enjoyed positive publicity, including features on *CNN*, *Good Morning America*, and in **TV Guide**. NTN was featured on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* and was highlighted in Forbes' recent book *Great Success Stories*.
- **NTN** has received top honors from the American Council of the Blind, as well as the American Foundation for the Blind, for its pioneering work in making the world of television accessible to visually impaired people.
- **NTN** was selected by the American Foundation for the Blind to audio describe its landmark video *What Do You Do When You See A Blind Person?* This is recognized as the definitive video in the field of accessibility for the visually impaired and can be viewed at NarrativeTV.com.
- **NTN** is a proud recipient of the 2000 International Humanitarian Award from the Lions Club, which is the largest organization in the world dedicated to meeting the needs of blind and visually impaired people.
- **NTN** provides more information about its service, as well as feature-length movies on-demand, free of charge, 24 hours-a-day, on its web site at <http://www.NarrativeTV.com>.
- **NTN** owns and operates its own studios, dedicated solely to audio describing programming for blind and visually impaired people. Therefore, NTN can offer the best price and turnaround time available. NTN was founded and is operated by blind and visually impaired people, making NTN's system the most effective and consistent in the industry.

### **The Narrative Television Network (NTN) and AmericanLife TV Network<sup>SM</sup>**

AmericanLife TV Network<sup>SM</sup> has been working with NTN since 1989 to provide cable television programming to blind and visually impaired Americans and their families. In that time, NTN has narrated over 100 films and series for AmericanLife. AmericanLife is proud of its efforts to assist these Americans and is committed to continuing this tradition. Moreover, AmericanLife would be happy to support efforts to encourage widespread roll out of descriptive video narration services throughout the cable industry.

Source: [www.narrativetv.com](http://www.narrativetv.com) Please note that the link to the TV program guide is out of date and maintained by Metropolitan Washington Ear. We have notified them and NTN and they are updating the guide.



**ATTACHMENT #3**

**NTN Pricing**

NTN's standard price is One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800) per completed programming hour, billed in quarter hour segments.